

In the current Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement and requested Applicant to elect one of the following groups for further prosecution: Group I, containing claims 1 and 10 – 18; Group II, containing claims 2-9; and Group III, containing claims 19 - 20. Applicant hereby elects Group I (claims 1 and 10-18) for further prosecution. Further, Applicant hereby requests examination of Groups I and III together as is appropriate as per page 3 of the Office Action where the Examiner explicitly states “[i]nventions I and III are not patentably distinct and would be grouped together for examination purposes.”

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for examination. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Serial No. 10/024,473  
Attorney Docket No. 101205.55175US  
April 25, 2006

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Response is  
respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Songer', written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Songer (Reg. No. 39,841)

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CROWELL & MORING  
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
(202) 624-2500 telephone  
(202) 628-5116 facsimile  
#2757473